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Historical Sketches of Quarantine.

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ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

Philadelphia County Medical Society,

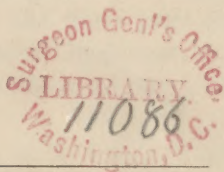
January 28, 1857,

AGREEABLY TO A PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION,

✓ BY

WILSON JEWELL, M.D.,

ON THE CLOSE OF HIS OFFICIAL TERM AS PRESIDENT.



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ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE PHILADELPHIA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY:

THE eighth article of the Constitution of our Society requires that the President, "at the close of his term of office, shall deliver a public address."

I assure you, gentlemen, nothing less than a sense of the obligation I am under to discharge the final claim of that office, to which, one year ago, I was called by your extreme partiality, would have induced me to appear before you on this occasion.

In the selection of a subject for my address, you will not charge me with misdirected judgment, should I deviate somewhat, from the course adopted by my talented predecessors. While those eminent men, in the fulfilment of this constitutional requirement, confined themselves chiefly to the discussion of medical ethics and medical education, I shall venture on a slight innovation.

I design to turn back the dusty page of history, and address you upon a subject, neither irrelevant, nor unimportant in its bearing, to the broad platform of our useful and distinguished profession.

Accompany me, then, while I take a retrospective glance at some of the primitive records of our own beloved metropolis, as early as the commencement of the 18th century, and gather from the destructive waters of oblivion, a few scattered historical sketches of quarantine.

Before entering, however, upon this retrospect, it may not be inappropriate to introduce a few remarks upon the origin of this important and world-wide system for the prevention of disease.

By quarantine, is understood that "regulation by which all

communication with individuals, ships, or goods, arriving from places infected with the plague, or other contagious disease, or supposed to be peculiarly liable to such infection, is interdicted for a certain definite period.”*

The term quarantine comes directly from the Italian word *quaranta*, signifying *forty*. Why forty days were fixed upon as the period for purification from disease, has nowhere been particularly explained. By some, it is said not to be of medical authority, but to have its origin from a superstitious regard for the fast of forty days called Lent, a period of abstinence, instituted by the church for the purification of the soul; which institution was founded on the forty days' fast of our Saviour in the wilderness. Hence, it is said, the superstitious institutors of quarantine demanded forty days to purify merchandise, ships, and other articles, as well as persons, from pestilential contagion.† Hecker‡ suggests, that the appointment of a forty days' detention was not dictated by caprice, but probably had a medical origin, derivable, in part, from the doctrine of critical days.

The period of separation, however, in my opinion, is more likely to have reference to the time of purification practised during the patriarchal ages. Moses, the lawgiver, revealed to his people, the Jews, certain laws for the cleansing of legal impurities, as the touching of a leper, &c., some of which impurities, the sacred historian informs us, required forty days for their cleansing.

As the origin of plague and contagion is veiled in obscurity, so also is the precise date of the first institution of a system of quarantine. The history of the former embraces the record of the latter. That they date far back into the primitive ages of the world's existence, both the works of sacred and profane writers teem with the clearest proofs.

Moses, the Jewish legislator, was not only familiar with contagion, but he inculcated sanitary precepts and instituted quarantine regulations. In the 13th chap. of Leviticus, we find the most stringent precautionary measures directed to be carried out

* McCullough's Commercial Dict.

† Caldwell's Thoughts on Quarantine.

‡ Hecker's Epidemics of the Middle Ages.

by the children of Israel, with a view to prevent the spread of disease, by separating the sick from those in health. He there not only gives orders for the lepers to be set apart from the rest of the people, but requires that their clothes shall be purified, and even that the garments belonging to the more aggravated cases should be burned. In the 14th chapter, he gives explicit directions for the purification of the persons of those who have been cured of the disease, and also determines the time that the diseased shall dwell alone without the camp, as well as without their tent, after being permitted to enter the camp (8th and 9th verses).

Nor is profane history less fruitful in its recorded instances of pestilential and contagious diseases, as well as in the precautions observed to prevent the spread of infection.

We have reliable authority, from the writings of ancient philosophers, physicians and poets, for the opinion, that a belief in the contagious nature of disease has descended from remote antiquity, was entertained by the physicians of Greece and Rome, and that precautions were taken at that early period to prevent its spread, however crude and conjectural their views may have been.

It was not, however, until the 14th century that any attempts were made to enforce legal restrictions, as a means of protection against the introduction of disease.

The return of one of those military expeditions undertaken by Christians for the recovery of the Holy Land from the power of infidels, brought with it, we are told, the Egyptian plague. Being looked upon as a new disease, it excited an unusual degree of attention.* Its great mortality, and its contagious character, gradually attracted notice. It was soon discovered, that those who avoided the sick, escaped the disease. Building on this hypothesis, measures for defence were early instituted, to avoid all communication with persons affected with the disease, and to prevent all intercourse with places where the plague prevailed.

The first of these regulations originated with Viscount Bernabo, of Reggio in Italy, and was issued in January, 1374.† This in-

* White on Plague.

† The authorities of Florence are said to have used occasional precaution, as early as 1348.—*Russell on the Plague.*

junction required that "every plague patient be taken out of the city into the fields, there to die or to recover."* Their attendants were forbidden to associate with any one for ten days. Cruel and inhuman as these regulations appear to be, they were not only strictly enforced, but in 1388, Bernabo "forbid the admission of people from infected places into his territories on pain of death."† In 1399, Viscount John imitated the example of his predecessor, when the disease appeared again, but in rather milder terms.

In process of time the benefits of this system of segregation of the sick, and of non-intercourse with infected places as a means of self-preservation, began to be understood and generally practised.

But we have no account of any well defined legal code of regulations being introduced, until about the middle of the 15th century. At this period, the world renowned prosperity of the maritime commerce of the once proud Venice was at its highest point of success.

Monopolizing the principal trade of Constantinople and the Levant, while her richly laden vessels were visiting every coast of Europe, it is not surprising that this ancient and flourishing capital, which had suffered severely from pestilence, should have found it necessary to establish a *cordon sanitaire*, in order to guard against the introduction of pestilential diseases from abroad.

These haughty Venetians, fearing the consequences from the appearance among them of a disease so dreadful in its visitations as the plague, which at this period was spreading among the sea-ports of the Mediterranean, and doubtless in possession of information as to the advantages from the entire separation of the sick, and of non-intercourse with infected places, their Senate, in 1448, instituted a quarantine by the enactment of a digest of laws, known from that period to the present, as the laws of quarantine.‡

The system thus legalized, obliged all ships and individuals arriving from suspected places, to undergo a term of probation, before they could be allowed to enter the port and discharge their cargoes.

A few years subsequent to the passage of this law, we have an

* Hecker.

† Ibid.

‡ White on Plague.

account of the first organized Lazaretto, or pest-house. It was erected in 1453 on the island of Sardinia, and called *il Lazaretto vecchio*. Another was erected in 1468, entitled *il Lazaretto nuovo*.*

All persons arriving from places where the existence of plague was suspected, were detained here. The sick from the city laboring under the disease, were sent with their families to the former station, and when cured, were kept still forty days longer in the latter, or new Lazaretto.†

At a still later period, 1485, the Republic of Venice established the first board of health. It consisted of three nobles appointed by the Grand Council. They were called the Council of Health, and were ordered to investigate the best means for preserving health and for preventing the introduction of disease from abroad.‡ The efforts of this Council not being entirely successful, their powers were so enlarged in 1504 as to "grant them the right of life and death over those who violated the regulations for health." No appeal was allowed from the sentence of this tribunal.§

Bills of health are said to have been introduced for the first time in the year 1527, during a fatal plague in Italy, but did not become general until the year 1665.||

Following the example of the Venetian oligarchy as a means of protection, quarantines and lazaretto's began to multiply among other powers along the shores of the Adriatic; until at length the constituted authorities of other commercial nations, believing in the absolute necessity for external police restrictions, founded on the doctrine of contagion, began to establish similar laws for the preservation of their maritime cities from imported diseases. 2

Although there had existed in England, certain preventive regulations at a very early period,¶ no regular system of quarantine was enforced, until about the year 1710, in Queen Ann's reign, when the plague was raging in towns on the Baltic Sea.

* Beckman's History of Inventions. Art. Quarantine.

† Hecker.

‡ Le Bret's History of the Republic of Venice.

§ Ibid.

|| Hecker.

¶ In the plague of 1348, the people of Gloucestershire prohibited communication with the city of Bristol, where the plague prevailed.—*Russell on the Plague*.

At that period the greatest excitement prevailed. But in 1720, during the dreadful plague of Marseilles, France, the government taking the alarm, appointed the celebrated Dr. Richard Mead to execute a draft of quarantine regulations, with the hope that if enforced, their country would be preserved from the pestilence then desolating one of the fairest cities of France. The Parliament approving the suggestions drawn up by this learned physician, repealed the Act of 1710, which was defective, and passed an act establishing quarantines throughout the commercial ports of the kingdom,* which law, until within a few years, has been rigidly enforced.

Twenty years before the enactment of this law of 1720 in England, a similar movement was projected in our own country, and in the province of Pennsylvania.

It was towards the close of the 17th century (1699) that Philadelphia, then in her infancy, and with a population of only about 4000 souls, was visited for the first time in its history, by a terrible calamity. A fever, pestilential in its character, raged with unusual virulence. It carried off "six, seven, and sometimes eight a day, for several weeks together; there being few if any houses free from sickness."† The records of those early days furnish no medical account of this fearful epidemic. The few distinguished historians and journalists, however, who refer to the pestilence, unite in opinion, not only that it was the veritable yellow fever, or "Barbadoes distemper," but moreover, that it was brought into the colony from the West Indies.‡

The same year (1699) brought with it the arrival of William Penn, the proprietary of the colony, from England, after an absence of fifteen years. This was his second visit to his virgin settlement, where he intended to remain for life, in what he then denominated "the quietness of our wilderness." An effort, however, having been made by the board of trade in London, to enable the Crown to assume the control of the colonies, Penn hurried back to England, in order to protect the interests of his infant colony, after a brief stay of only two years, but still long

* Russell on the Plague.

† Thomas Story's Journal, p 223. Phila. Lib.

‡ Isaac Norris' letter to Jonathan Dickenson.—*Watson's Annals*.

enough to have established numerous important laws, among which was that of quarantine.

The occurrence of that fatal epidemic to which we have just alluded,* its malignant character, its dreadful ravages, with its fearful concomitants, the prevalent opinion at that early day, of its importation "in a ship or other sea vessel from the island of Barbadoes," together with the seeming necessity for some legal arrangements for the future protection of the citizens from the introduction of disease through the channels of a foreign commerce, gave rise, without doubt, to direct legislation upon the subject of the contagious nature of this epidemic, and its importation into the infant colony from abroad, which resulted in the enactment of the first quarantine law in this country.

This took place in the following year, 1700, when the citizens of Philadelphia were induced to represent their exposed situation to the Colonial Assembly which met at New Castle.

It was no doubt fortunate for the petitioners, that William Penn, who was a man of great benevolence of character, and of tender sympathies, was present on this occasion. He had been an eye-witness of some of the scenes of distress and suffering through which our ancestors had passed. And if allowed to judge from the earnest desire he had manifested for the prosperity of his darling project, it was chiefly through his influence and instrumentality that this law was enacted, to prevent, if possible, the recurrence of a similar calamity.

This is the earliest act to be found on record in America, having any reference to a system of regulations for the government of sickly vessels.† It was done "At a General Assembly began at New Castle on the 4th day of October, in the 12th year of the reign of King William 3rd, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred (1700), by William Penn, Esq., absolute proprietary and Governor-in-Chief of the provinces of Pennsylvania," is

* The whole number of deaths amounted to 220. This was one out of every 17.3 of the population, which by some writers is said to have been only 3800, instead of 4000.

† In 1701 a health law, partially quarantine, was enacted in Massachusetts.—*Mass. Sanitary Commission*. In New York, the first law on the subject passed by the colonial legislature was in 1758.—*Report Select Com. of Legis. of New York*, 1845, p. 5.

entitled "An act to prevent sickly vessels coming into this government," and reads as follows:—

"Whereas, It hath been found, by sad experience, that the coming and arriving of unhealthy vessels at the ports and towns of this province and territories, and the landing of their passengers and goods, before they have lain some time to be purified, have proved very detrimental to the health of the inhabitants of this province: *Be it therefore enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That,* from and after the publication hereof, no unhealthy or sickly vessels, coming from any unhealthy or sickly place whatsoever, shall come nearer than one mile to any of the towns or ports of this province or territories without bills of health; nor shall presume to bring to shore such vessels, nor to land such passengers or their goods at any of the said ports or places, until such time as they shall obtain a license for their landing at Philadelphia, from the governor and council, or from any two justices of the peace of any other port or county of this province or territories, under the penalty of ONE HUNDRED POUNDS for every such unhealthy vessel so landing, as aforesaid, to the use of the proprietary and governor; and that suitable provision be ordered by the governor and council for their reception, if they be permitted to land or come on shore."*

Whether this primitive health law was at once enforced, or whether it remained for a time as a dead letter on the statute-book, is buried in the lost history of these early days of the colony.

Nor does it appear, from the vague account left us for reference, either in the act itself or in the minutes of the provincial council, that any person was appointed as port-physician or health-officer, to visit sickly vessels coming into port, although allusion is made in the law to "bills of health;" and, according to this law, they were obliged to obtain this health bill, or "license," from the governor or two justices of the peace, before such vessels could come to the shore, or land their passengers or goods, under a heavy penalty.

The conclusion is, that the law was not immediately enforced or if so, but very imperfectly, during a period of nineteen years

* Laws of Penna., P. Miller's Ed., chap. lxii., p. 182. Athenæum.

after its enactment. This opinion may be sustained from the records of history, which inform us, that, on the 22d of March, 1720, the Hon. William Keith, governor of the province, stated to the council "that, there being frequent late advices of the plague and pestilential distempers raging in several countries of Europe, and there being great numbers of people daily imported into this colony from Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, and other parts," he thought it a subject worthy their serious deliberations, to consider some further means than the health law provided, for preventing sickly vessels, arriving in this province, from landing their cargoes or passengers. He then informs them that, in order to render the provisions of the law more effectual, he "had caused the draft of a commission to be prepared, whereby Patrick Baird, of Philadelphia, chirurgeon, is authorized and required to go on board all vessels arriving from sea, in any port of this province, and to examine the state of the health of the mariners and passengers on board, and, upon reasonable cause of suspicion of any pestilential or contagious distemper being aboard, to warn or require the master or commander of such sickly ship or vessel, not to presume to land, or suffer to be landed, any goods or passengers from aboard the said vessel, before such master or commander has obtained the governor's license for so doing."*

This commission, as amended, was approved by the Council, who were also of opinion "that, without the appointment of such an officer, the health law was lame and defective, and could not answer its first design and intention."

From the minutes of the Colonial Council, which are reliable history, we may safely affirm that Patrick Baird, chirurgeon, was the first regularly appointed port-physician in this city, under the health law of 1700. He received his commission from Governor Keith, by consent of the Council, in 1720, nearly twenty years after the passage of the law, and one hundred and thirty-seven years ago.

It is a source of regret that so little information is left us of Dr. Patrick Baird, among the scattered records of the history of the times in which he lived. Of his professional claims for an office so responsible and important, over those of Drs. Wynne,

* Colonial Records, vol. iii. p. 112.

Kearsley, Jones, Owen, Goodson, Hodgson, Zachary, and Græme, his contemporaries of that early period, several of whom were distinguished in their profession, and one, Dr. Thos. Wynne, "a person of note and character"* in public affairs, we are at a loss to determine. He could not have been known extensively as a practitioner of medicine, for we have been unable to discover any record of his name among others of the profession who flourished in those primitive days. In all probability the true secret of his appointment was the relation in which he stood to the governor, with whom he was a great favorite.

At the time of his appointment he held another office, that of private secretary to his excellency; and in 1723, he was chosen secretary to the colonial council, in the place of James Logan, which position he held until 1726. He was evidently a man of education, and must have possessed more than an ordinary share of intelligence to have held the position of secretary to the Governor's Council.

Again we find him in public life in 1740, as secretary to the council, under the administration of Governor Thomas, in which office he continued until 1743, when he resigned on account of failing health. On retiring from office, the council, in appreciation of his services, gave him a vote of thanks for his "strict probity, diligence, and exactness in the discharge of his duties."†

Whether Dr. Baird ever boarded vessels in his official position, or detained them in the river, on account of "any suspicion of a pestilential or contagious distemper on board," history is silent. From this circumstance we draw the conclusion that if he ever did so, there existed no occasion to detain them in the river.

Of the length of time he held this appointment, the record of events in those days is to us a sealed book. The presumption is, however, that as he was removed from the office of Secretary to the Council in 1726, by Gov. Gordon, on account of political differences, he either threw up his commission as port-physician, or was removed at the same time. At all events, he could not have remained longer in the office than two years after Gov. Gordon's arrival, for in April, 1728, Drs. Græme and Zachary

* Proud's History of Pa.

† Colonial Records, vols. iii. and iv.

received special appointments from the Governor, to visit two sickly vessels which had arrived in the river from Bristol, England.

An interest is connected with this event, which should not be overlooked. It is the first instance on record in this State, if not in all America, of the detention of a vessel on account of sickness, that has any resemblance to the enforcement of quarantine laws. It was in April, 1728.

The arrival of these vessels produced much excitement and alarm, as rumors were in circulation that a malignant disease prevailed on board, and the inhabitants had not yet forgotten their many and severe trials from the fever of 1699.

The Council on this occasion held a special meeting, at which the Mayor and Recorder were present by invitation. The Governor rose and stated that the ships Dorothy and Pharaoh had arrived with passengers, and that several persons had died on board of the former, from malignant fever. That he had detained these vessels in the river, and had commissioned Drs. Græme and Zachary to visit them, and report their condition. The report was next read, which stated "that on board the Dorothy several had been seized with a malignant fever, of whom fifteen died, a good many recovered, and a few still ailing; and they conceived it proper to order a removal of all such as are in the least ailing, into fresh air, with other conveniences; and further that having visited the Pharaoh, they find all on board in good health." This report was signed after being sworn to by Dr. Græme, and affirmed to by Dr. Zachary.

The council "*ordered* that the Dorothy come not nearer than one mile to any of the towns or ports of this province; that the master or owners do not presume to land any goods, passengers, or sailors, at Philadelphia without license, under the penalty in the said act mentioned; and that the sheriff serve the said masters or owners, with a copy of this order; and further, that he be required to provide some convenient place at a distance, for the reception of those persons still sick on board, that proper care may be taken for their recovery."* It was further ordered;

* It is believed they were landed at the Swedes' Church, and conducted through the woods to the Blue House Tavern, corner 10th and South, then rural,

that "the Pharaoh be admitted to enter and land at Philadelphia, the goods and passengers now on board her."

Nine days after these timely proceedings, the Council met again, to act on an application of Mr. Thos. Willing, part owner of the Dorothy, accompanied with the certificate of the physicians, to allow him to enter said vessel at the port of Philadelphia. The report of Drs. Græme and Zachary being favorable, the Council "ordered that the said ship Dorothy be allowed to enter and put on shore, the goods and passengers on board; due care being had, that before said vessel come up to Philadelphia, all the bedding be put ashore at a convenient distance from the city, there to be aired, the vessel to be smoked with tobacco and washed with vinegar; the bales of woollen goods on board, to remain some time exposed to the air on deck before landing; and further, that the said ship lay out in the stream of the river and not come near any wharf, till she is sufficiently cleansed."*

We have been thus minute in presenting this item of history, because it is worthy of preservation, as illustrative of the beginning of a system of quarantine in this city, and perhaps country, which, after a long course of years and in consequence of its many useless yet rigid exactions, has become oppressive to those who are obliged to submit to its restrictions, as well as burdensome and injurious to commerce, from the imposition directly and indirectly of heavy taxation, as well as unnecessary delay, by protracting the length of the voyage.

It is moreover, information full of interest to the advocates for a medical police. It gives a clear and succinct account of those instructions to the first vessel ever required to ride quarantine, bound for this port, as early as 1728; and as far as we have any knowledge, the first known instance of the performance of quarantine in this western world.

It will also be observed, that in these requirements there were many wholesome principles of sanitary police, not only understood, but carefully observed.

Those sick on board the vessel were "removed into fresh air

where two years before they had taken smallpox cases from on ship-board.—*Watson's Annals.*

* Colonial Records, vol. iii. pp. 293-5.

and other conveniences." The bedding and all woollen goods, were to be exposed on deck and to be well aired at a convenient distance, before entering the city. The vessel, also, had to undergo the process of purification by "smoking with tobacco and washing with vinegar."

This narrative reveals another fact in the early history of quarantine, viz., that the sheriff of the county performed the duties of health officer on this occasion, and saw executed the orders of the Governor and Council.

The time required for detention at quarantine, however, is but vaguely expressed. After the lapse of nine days in this instance, the physicians furnished a certificate of health for the vessel. This it appears did not, as it would now under the existing laws, clear the vessel. Something more was necessary; it had to undergo the process of ventilation and purification, which operation may have occupied five or ten days longer,* thus prolonging the time of separation to fifteen or twenty days.

The next historical event on record, demanding the enforcement of quarantine, did not happen until 1738, ten years after the detention of the *Dorothy*. The circumstances are briefly these: Four ships had arrived from Rotterdam and Amsterdam. Two of them, the *Nancy* and *Friendship*, had passengers, "and as the landing of them might prove dangerous to the health of the inhabitants," they were required to remove one mile from the city; which their captains refused to do; upon which they were arrested and obliged "to give security in the sum of £500 each," that they would neither land passengers nor goods, without the Governor's license.†

It does not appear, however, that there was any sickness on board these vessels. But from the prompt action of the authorities, it is inferred they had either sailed from sickly places, had suffered from disease during the voyage, or else, from their filthy condition, the physician, Dr. Græme, feared the introduction of disease into the City at that warm season (September), if permitted to enter and land their passengers without proper purification and ventilation. Hence these summary proceedings.

* My MS. Hist. of Quarantine, p. 15.

† Colonial Records, vol. iv. p. 306.

This case is also the first on record in Pennsylvania, of resistance to the execution of the health laws, as well as arrest and binding over before the authorities, until they were complied with.

About this period in the history of Philadelphia, we first hear of "Palatine Fever." A disease, called typhus fever by some writers, by others, yellow fever. It prevailed extensively and fatally among the German citizens, but especially the German emigrants, through whom it was believed the fever was introduced from Germany. It is therefore not improbable, that this circumstance influenced Doctor Græme in his careful examination of the ships and their passengers, as well as in their detention.

It was in this year, also, that strict orders were given to the pilots, "not to bring up any ship with passengers on board, nearer than the distance of one mile from the city," until visited by the physician. And the proper officer was directed to see that this order of Council was strictly executed.*

This same year (1738) introduces us to the beginning of interesting and important proceedings, intimately related to the quarantine of this city, which, however, were not consummated until 1743—the establishment of a Lazaretto, or, as then called, a Pest-house, or hospital, for the accommodation of sick emigrants upon their arrival in the province. Hitherto no provision of this kind had been secured, further than as temporary arrangements from time to time were provided in private untenanted houses in the city, and elsewhere among the farmers in the country.

It was the dawn of a noble charity; the origin of the first public hospital in Philadelphia. A philanthropic arrangement,

* In 1728, these duties devolved upon the sheriff. This year (1738) David Brentnall was sheriff, but the duty was assigned to Thomas Glentworth, a sea-captain, who held his appointment under the Assembly, to carry out the law called "An act for imposing a duty on persons convicted of heinous offences, and to prevent poor and impotent persons being brought into the Colony." On reference to the printed minutes of the Colonial Assembly for 1754 (Phila. Library), it appears that a bill was before them, in the form of a supplement to the "Act to prevent the spreading of infectious distempers," passed in 1743, making provision for a health officer. The Assembly filled the blank with the name of Spencer Trotter, from among the numerous applicants; but, after passing the house, was rejected by the Governor and Council, and failed to become a law.

on a permanent basis, for the sick, even for the most destitute, especially in times of pestilence, that knows no rival.

Scarcely seven years had elapsed, before this incipient, yet humane public effort, was imitated through the beneficence of a few prominent citizens, among whom stood foremost one of our own profession, Dr. Thomas Bond; and to him, it is said, belongs the honor of originating a movement, which resulted in the organization and erection of that distinguished monument of benevolence and medical science, the Pennsylvania Hospital*—a model institution, devoted to the relief of suffering humanity, and which has grown with the growth and strengthened with the strength of our metropolis—an institution, widely known and appreciated for its usefulness, and justly the pride and ornament of the State whose name it bears, as well as the boast of the city in which it is located.

Philadelphia at this period (1738) had been in existence nearly half a century—had been already decimated by the ravages of a fatal epidemic, and was again threatened by the appearance of a blighting fever, brought into the province from over the sea. The time had arrived for more permanent provision for the sick. Emigrants were flocking to her shores; many of whom upon their arrival, prostrated by disease, soon perished in the absence of suitable accommodations, who otherwise might have survived.

The earliest intimation in the provincial records of our State having reference to a hospital or pest-house, is to be found in Governor Thomas' annual message to the Assembly, January 2d, 1738,† in which he says: "This province has been for some years the asylum of the distressed Protestants of the Palatinate and other parts of Germany; the condition, indeed, of such as arrived here lately has given a very just alarm, but had you been provided with a pest-house or hospital in a proper situation, the evils which have been apprehended might, under God, been entirely prevented." He then alludes to the strict execution of the law to prevent sickly vessels from coming into the province, that having provided board for the sick in the country at a distance from the city, more could not have been done without inhumanly exposing great numbers to perish on board the ships that brought them,

* Dr. Wood's Centennial Celebration Address.

† Colonial Records, vol. iv. p. 315.

and pleads, that hospital accommodations should be provided for them in the future.

To this humane request, the Assembly returned a negative reply. They considered the proposition as too great an undertaking at that time, for the state of the public treasury.

This positive refusal of the Assembly to comply with the Governor's request, together with their declination in the year 1740 to settle the long standing account of Dr. Græme for visiting unhealthy vessels by appointment of the Governor and Council—the Assembly denying the right of the executive to appoint to office without the approval of the legislative branch of government—were not only alleged to have been indirectly the cause of the introduction of malignant fever into the city, but more especially the latter, laid the foundation for a tedious and bitter dispute between the Governor and the Assembly of the province.

It is not proper, at this remote period, either to condemn or to justify the conduct of Dr. Græme and other medical men, who from the time the Assembly declined remunerating the Doctor for past services as port-physician,* refused, "for the most part," it is said, to perform the duties of the office, although still under appointment. The sequel, however, was most serious. Unhealthy vessels came into port without receiving a visit from the physician, and landed their passengers, many of whom were "afflicted with mortal and contagious diseases."

Sorrowful indeed were the consequences of this dereliction of duty, let the censure fall where it belongs. History reveals the melancholy fact, that in the following year, 1741, Philadelphia was visited for the second time with the yellow fever.† By many it was called the "Palatine distemper," because it prevailed extensively among the German emigrants.‡ Dr. Thomas Bond, who lived and practised in Philadelphia at that time, says it was the

* The accounts of Dr. Græme were finally adjusted through a committee of the Assembly, by allowing the Dr. £100 for his services, "for visiting sickly vessels for many years, and other services done the public, in going a journey about Indian affairs."—*Colonial Records*, vol. iv.

† Noah Webster calls it the "American Plague."

‡ The German emigrants during this period were chiefly from the palatinate districts bordering on the Rhine.

yellow fever, and was introduced by a passenger vessel from Dublin.* But the Colonial Records tell us "it is much more probable that the fatal distemper was brought from the West Indies than from Europe, whence two vessels came, as it is almost peculiar to the former, and was known to have raged among the King's forces at Carthagen and Jamaica."†

This sad event, and the sickness of the two preceding years, seem to confirm the accounts given in the Colonial Records, that during the years 1739-40, and '41 the existing health laws were scarcely observed, and that sickly vessels instead of undergoing quarantine, were allowed to enter the port, discharge their cargoes, and distribute their sick in empty houses about the city.‡

Before this serious calamity had befallen the city, the deepest solicitude prevailed in the entire community, but more especially among the Germans, for fear they would again be overwhelmed by a violent distemper. One chief cause for this distress arose from the unpleasant difficulty then existing between the Governor and Assembly, in respect to the appointment and compensation of the port physician, as well as the very imperfect manner in which the health laws, relating to foreign vessels, had been executed. This neglect in their opinion, had introduced quite an increase of disease amongst them through an emigrant population.

But there was yet another cause: scarcely had they ceased to forget or to mourn over the dreadful havoc of the epidemic of 1699, which had covered up in the grave so many of their dearest friends, prostrated their energies and laid waste their business, ere they were again threatened, by "the pestilence that walketh in darkness and the destruction that wasteth at noonday."§

* Watson's Annals.

† Col. Rec., vol. iv. p. 527.

‡ Watson's Annals.

§ Through the kindness of Dr. G. W. Norris, I am able to furnish an extract from the letter of Secretary Peters to the Proprietary of the Colony, giving an account of this epidemic; it is as follows:—

"At the time of your Brother's departure from this city, it was afflicted with a most malignant distemper, imported in the spring by ships from Ireland. At first it crept along the wharves, affecting strangers, common sailors, and the low and poor part of the people, and was easily managed by the Physicians, but as the Dog Days advanced, having a long and dry season without gusts, the sickness increased and attacked the better sort of the inhabitants, of whom a good many

It was in the midst of this disheartening emergency, that the people of Philadelphia petitioned the Governor, that more effectual health laws might be enacted for their protection, and earnestly pleaded the necessity for the erection of a hospital for the reception of the sick emigrants. Their urgent appeal was not in vain. The Governor laid the subject once more before the Assembly, where it met with favor. It came too late, however, to avert the storm of disease and death which had been gathering around their horizon.

It was not until November, 1741, following the epidemic of that memorable year, that the Assembly resolved upon measures to build and maintain a hospital for contagious diseases, and for sick emigrants at the public expense.

At this session they also appointed Dr. Lloyd Zachary as their physician to visit sickly vessels.

When this appointment of a new port physician was communicated to the Governor, he expressed his dissatisfaction, that the Assembly presumed to appoint an officer of government, whose authority should emanate from him as the representative of His Majesty the King of England. He called it "unprecedented, illegal, and unwarrantable," refusing to recognize Dr. Zachary as the proper officer. This difficulty was finally adjusted between the Council and Assembly, by the Governor appointing Dr. Bond in connection with Dr. Zachary. To this arrangement the

died, tho' not in such numbers as is reported. About the 17th August, the Physicians opened a body of a man who died in 48 hours from the first sensible attack, and found his Bowels and Stomach quite mortified. From the 17th August to 17th September, the distemper continued very violent and baffled all the arts of the Doctors. I staid a few days at New York after your Brother went, and there by accident I lighted on Dr. Warren's treatise of the Yellow Fever at Barbadoes, a book well known in London, and finding his description answer in most points to the Philadelphia sickness, I dispatched it immediately to Dr. Grame, who was much assisted by it—and after the arrival of the Book the distemper came to be well understood, so as to yield, even in very violent cases, to a free use of sudorifics—Dr. Warren's specific for the cure. One particular symptom attended the fever in Philadelphia which I suppose never appeared in Barbadoes, and that is a suppression of urine from the first attack—this was the case of poor ———, and where the urine was suppressed, there is no instance of any one's recovery. At present we enjoy good health and a fine season. According to the best accounts I am able to get, the number of the dead since the 1st of June amounts to no more than 250."

Assembly consented, and agreed also, to allow him a suitable compensation. From this time all suitable measures were provided to visit sickly vessels.

Towards these gentlemen greater liberality was expressed than had been shown to Dr. Græme. They received for their services a sum equal to \$2 each, for every vessel visited.

To carry out the intentions of the Assembly in the erection of a hospital, a committee was appointed consisting of Isaac Norris, Thos. Leech, Edward Warner, Israel Pemberton, Oswald Peele, Abraham Chapman, Thos. Tatnall and John Wright to prepare a plan, make an estimate of the expense for building and maintaining the same. This committee acted promptly. In four months they had selected the site and even purchased at public sale from the executors of John Fisher, a tract of land called Fisher's Island, at the southern junction of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers.* The Assembly approved the purchase, and authorized the Trustees of the General Loan Office to pay the purchase-money of £1700, Pennsylvania currency.

This island contained 342 acres of land and meadow, and had several buildings on it, with stock, &c.

In the following year, 1743, the Assembly passed the first act in Pennsylvania providing for a lazaretto or hospital for sick passengers arriving in the province, and "to prevent the spreading of infectious distempers." The Trustees of this property, viz: Joseph Harvey, Thos. Tatnall, Joseph Trotter, James Morris, and Oswald Peel, were directed to lease the island, reserving six acres for future hospital buildings,† with the understanding, that the present buildings should be used as a hospital for sick emigrants. The law required that the nursing, medicine, maintenance and other necessities should be defrayed by the importer, who was to give bonds for the faithful performance of his obligation, and in the event of a failure, he was to be committed to prison *without bail or mainprise* until he conformed therewith.

No patient could be discharged from this hospital without a certificate from the physician, concurred in by the Trustees, that

* This island afterwards received the name of Province Island, but is now known as State Island, and belongs to the United States. The walls of the old Lazaretto buildings are yet standing.

† These were not erected until 1794.

he was free from infectious diseases. Among other stringent sections of this act,* was one, exacting a penalty of ten pounds for harboring any sick person who had been ordered to the pest-house, and compelling persons so offending, not only to take care of them during their sickness, without charge, but in the event of their death, to bury them at their own expense; and further, if they were unable to pay the fine, they were imprisoned for one month.

This severe law may perhaps be in part accounted for, from the fact that in July, 1742, the ship *Constantine* arrived in port with a "putrid, infectious fever."† Drs. Bond and Zachary having visited her, the Governor ordered her to anchor a mile below the city for purification, and her sick to be taken to Fisher's Island. But it appeared that five or six of the sick had been landed in the city. The Council, upon learning of this violation of the Governor's order, directed the Attorney-General to prosecute the captain. Hence the necessity for the above section of the law, to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

The first appointed Lazaretto physicians, were Drs. Bond and Zachary, who were paid for the first six months' services, the former, £5 10s.; the latter, £25.

Soon after this appointment, Doctor Zachary must have resigned, as from 1743, until 1754, Drs. Bond and Græme were employed to visit sickly vessels.

During the year 1743, considerable apprehension was felt by the citizens, owing to the great prevalence of infectious diseases, which they attributed to the constant arrival of numbers of German emigrants, and the crowded state of the vessels in which they were imported. To relieve this grievance, they petitioned the Assembly to provide a more "effectual remedy to the said evil." This petition, however, was laid upon the table, receiving no attention.

In January of the following year, a ship arrived from the Mediterranean, where the plague was then prevalent. This arrival caused a great sensation. As soon as the vessel reached the wharf, the captain was arrested and committed to prison for

* Act of Feb. 3d, 1743.

† Colonial Records, vol. iv. p. 568.

a violation of the health laws and for abusive language. After a careful examination of the vessel and crew by Drs. Bond and Græme, who found all on board healthy, and the captain in possession of a clean bill of health, he was released from prison with a reprimand, while his ship was ordered to undergo quarantine two miles below the city; the bedding and clothing aired, the vessel ventilated and fumigated, and given in charge of the naval officer, Dr. Græme.* To prevent a recurrence of the excitement this arrival produced, the pilots were again instructed, under the severest penalty, against bringing vessels from sickly places nearer to the city than two miles.

The advent of the year 1747 was characterized by the return to Philadelphia of the yellow fever for the third time, in an epidemic form. Great care had been observed in the examination of all vessels from abroad. In the month of September the ship *Euryale*, Capt. Cox, arrived from Barbadoes, where sickness prevailed when they left; had lost one of the crew with yellow fever, and one passenger was sick on board. This vessel was ordered into a strict quarantine, one mile below the city. She was considered an infected vessel. But notwithstanding the precautions observed, many of her passengers contrived to land and scattered themselves over the city, and as the record says, "to the great danger of the health and lives of the inhabitants."† It may be proper, however, to observe that according to some authorities, the fever prevailed before the arrival of the *Euryale*.

During this year a number of suspected vessels were visited by the physicians, but finding no sickness on board, were permitted up.

In September, 1749, the ship *Francis and Elizabeth* arrived from Rotterdam with Palatines on board, many of whom were sick with an eruptive fever.‡ Her presence caused great excitement and alarm. She was visited by Drs. Græme and Bond, and ordered to Province Island, where the sick on board were landed and placed in the hospital, and the well detained on board until allowed to come to the city.

In the following year (1750), after a strong appeal from the

* We have no record of this appointment.

† Colonial Records, vol. v. p. 109.

‡ Ibid., p. 410.

citizens, remonstrating against the practice of importers of emigrants crowding their ships with passengers, to which cause they attributed the frequent introduction of pestilential diseases into the province, the Assembly enacted a new health law, prohibiting the importation of emigrants in too great numbers in one vessel.* This law made provision for the space that each passenger should be allowed in length and breadth, and also, for suitable provisions during the voyage.

The year 1754 was a sickly one, caused by a fever which prevailed among the Palatines who had but recently arrived in the city.† Every precaution was observed to arrest it, and an extended medical report from Drs. Græme and Bond will be found in the Colonial Records, on the causes and character of the epidemic.‡

Fifteen years after the law of 1750, a supplement was enacted May 18th, 1765, providing for the height of room each passenger shall have on board the ship. It also requires that each passenger vessel shall carry a surgeon and medicine chest, and for the proper cleansing and fumigation during the voyage.§

No further action was taken by the Assembly in regard to quarantine laws until 1774, when a committee of the House was appointed to prepare and introduce a new bill for the protection of the province from pestilential diseases imported in ships.

* Act of January 27th, 1750. My MS. History of Quarantine.

† For an account of this fever, contained in the following extract from a letter written by Isaac Norris, to a friend in London, dated Dec. 21st, 1754, I am indebted to my friend Dr. Geo. W. Norris:—

“The late importations of passengers here have brought among us a distemper almost equal to the plague, for which we are now endeavouring to provide some remedy by law, having found by experience the laws already in force insufficient. The infection was brought in by the Palatines, and about a thousand of them have died, and many of the captains who brought them over, and nurses, and attendants who have been among them, have perished under the strong contagion: numbers are yet dying, but our present severe frost keeps it from spreading far, and we hope if we can find a remedy for cleansing themselves, their chests, and other goods, that we may escape the danger of the effects on the return of warmer weather. As these people were well when they came on shipboard, they have undoubtedly contracted their distemper from their number and nastiness at sea, and our Doctors are I presume in the right in calling it the Jail Distemper.”

‡ Colonial Records, vol. vi., p. 173.

§ Act of May 18th, 1765. My MS. History of Quarantine.

This bill passed the house Jan. 22, 1774, and contains several new features. It provided for a steward of the hospital at Province Island, to take charge of the sick. It exacted a penalty of £100 for bringing a passenger vessel, or one coming from a sickly port, nearer to Philadelphia than Mud Island or Fort Mifflin, without a permit from the health officer, after an examination by the physician. A fine of £100 was also exacted for concealing a sick passenger. Another provision was, that any sick person escaping from Province Island and arrested, was required to pay a fine of £50, and if not able, *was to receive any number of lashes, not exceeding twenty, on his bare back, well laid on.* The visiting physician was to receive £3 10s. for each visit made to a vessel. Head money of sixpence for each passenger was to be paid to the health officer. The amount received to go to the trustees of Province Island, to assist in defraying the hospital expenses.

This health law of 1774 remained unaltered for nineteen years. In all probability during this long interval, or at least for a period of several years, it was almost, if not quite, a dead-letter law. We have reference here particularly to those years when the country was involved in both a civil and a revolutionary war; when the colony of Pennsylvania, in common with others, threw off her allegiance to Great Britain and resolved to become free. During this political struggle, many of our laws ceased to be enforced, or were ruthlessly violated. Commerce being obstructed, there was but little occasion for the enforcement of quarantine laws, which, like many other observances adopted by the Colonies, were lost in the fury of the strife.

Thus, gentlemen, I have gathered up and presented you, in chronological order, a few scattered fragments of quarantine, more especially as it existed prior to the war of the Revolution in our own State. If I have wearied your patience, and failed to interest you, let the severity of your judgment charge the fault to the inelegance of my composition, and the absence of all rhetorical polish, rather than to the subject-matter of my address. The subject is one of magnitude, and possesses a world-wide interest. All civilized Europe and America have been willing to acknowledge its influence, and have adopted, in some form or other, its sanitary principles. It involves the preservation of the

health and life of individuals, as well as nations. It deserves the attention and study of statesmen, of philosophers, physicians, and the humblest individual in society. If it has embarrassed commerce, and wasted millions of dollars, it has kept disease from our dwellings, and saved thousands of lives. If it has oppressed the few, it has conferred blessings upon the masses; and if it has failed to arrest the progress and spread of epidemics, it must be conceded that in numerous instances it has been useful by resisting the introduction of disease; hence it cannot be too highly appreciated, nor too thoroughly investigated.

While the historical facts here presented have an inherent claim upon our attention as philanthropists, as members of the medical profession, we cannot fail to recognize them as holding an intimate relation to one of the most valuable of the sciences collateral to medicine—public hygiene—a department worthy of a large share of our study, but unfortunately too much neglected.

I need scarcely remind you, gentlemen, that notwithstanding quarantine is one of the leading questions in this utilitarian age, more especially among those who have devoted their attention and talents to the sanitary police of sea-board cities, many intelligent scientific observers as to the character of its essential principles, have not only questioned its utility, but have recommended its entire abrogation.

In England, the General Board of Health, after a close investigation into all the facts within their reach, illustrating the system of quarantine, propose to discontinue entirely these sanative establishments, substituting for them a strict code of internal hygienic regulations. Nor do they hesitate to assert, without any mental reservation or qualification, that quarantines are no public securities, having failed to prevent the introduction and spread of epidemic diseases.*

Unwilling as I am to commit my opinion to the extreme views embraced in this commission, or, on the other hand, to agree in sentiment with those ultraists, who, from a different standpoint, are disposed to regard the quarantine system as the only safe means to be relied upon for security from the invasion of pestilential and contagious diseases, nevertheless, I am deeply im-

* Second Report of Quarantine. General Board of Health, London.

pressed with the fact, that quarantine, as it now exists, and wherever enforced, in this or in foreign countries, is not only inefficient and oppressive, but calculated to entail upon commerce unnecessary interruptions and unreasonable embarrassments.

That in many instances they have failed to accomplish the laudable purpose for which they were originally instituted, history furnishes numerous melancholy examples. That the isolated means adopted to dissipate the morbid agent and preserve the crew and passengers of ships in a healthy state, have proved the cause of a foul atmosphere and the nourishment and development of the very evil it was designed to prevent, is alike true. The doctrine, too, of a specific contagion, or the spread of epidemic diseases by contagion, which was universally received when quarantines were first instituted, has, within the present century, undergone almost an entire revolution, especially in relation to those epidemics which, for centuries, have occasionally made their appearance among the nations of the earth, depopulating their cities, and prostrating their commercial energies.

A judicious modification of the present unsound, ill-advised and ancient code of quarantine laws is therefore not only called for, but absolutely necessary. In the domain of the science of hygiene, quarantine has already become a prominent subject of investigation. An apparent inconsistency exists in many of its leading features, truth being mixed up with the rubbish of error. It conflicts with the prevailing opinions of the best informed medical men of the present age, and stands in direct opposition to the almost universal belief in the laws which govern epidemics and determine the question of contagion, upon which false doctrine the laws of quarantine were originally based.

My experience as regards our own quarantine system, has long since convinced me of the entire propriety of such a modification, as shall place it upon an equality with the present improved state of the science of hygiene. The requirements of the law, as it now stands, are unnecessarily restrictive and burdensome when enforced, as well as embarrassing to the commercial prosperity of our city, and should be remodelled. In order to accomplish the desired reform, an intimate and comprehensive acquaintance with

the principles of separation and isolation, upon which all external sanitary regulations are constructed, is highly essential. Without this knowledge, the errors thrown around the entire machinery cannot be corrected. The details and their practical application involved in the proposed reformation will not be required of me now. It is enough, that I submit for your consideration the importance of bringing up this interesting field of inquiry to the present advanced state of the collateral sciences. In the department of Hygiene, as it relates to an internal police, most valuable and extensive improvements have of late been suggested, and in many instances carried out. But without a corresponding advance for the removal of the numerous evils co-existent with quarantine itself, these improvements will not be available, to the same extent as they would be otherwise.

To accomplish this desirable change, and to enjoy, not only the benefits resulting from a reformed system of quarantine laws, which would protect our maritime cities from the introduction of disease through its commercial channels, while those channels of commerce would meet with but little interruption, and to have a uniform system throughout the United States, I have in another place suggested the calling of a deliberative scientific convention, composed of delegations from the various boards of health in those cities interested, and from respectable medical organizations. This conference to receive the sanction of the State legislatures, and in the end to have a national impress. Here, it is contemplated, the whole subject would be thoroughly and dispassionately discussed; the discordant points at issue investigated, false theories exposed, truth separated from error, and a system adopted, at once uniform in its essential characters and modern in its principles, that would meet the hearty co-operation of the States, and relieve commerce from the oppressive restrictions she too often suffers.

In advancing my own opinion on the question of a reform in quarantine, I am free to acknowledge, that while I desire a thorough change in the existing systems, I am not an advocate for an entire repeal of these laws. My experience and observation lead me to this conclusion, however widely it may differ from the results arrived at by many of my learned countrymen,

and the investigations and conclusions of enlightened commissions in Europe.

I am aware, moreover, that this doctrine of the entire abrogation of all quarantine restrictions upon commerce, at present so popular in England, is not new. Maclean and several of his countrymen taught it long since. In this western world, fifty years ago, Rush, Caldwell, Potter, and other distinguished writers advanced similar views. Maclean boldly asserted that "they have no quality or qualities capable of counterbalancing in any degree the enormous mischiefs which they occasion to society." Dr. Rush says of them, "they originated in error—millions of money have been wasted by them. Thousand of lives have been sacrificed by them." Caldwell, who was always a reformer and a learned sanitarian, was less ultra, for while he showed that in the face of the most stringent system of seclusion, the fever (yellow) had frequently appeared in our commercial cities, he believed that measures should be directed against impure vessels and cargoes, instead of persons or ports from whence they sailed.

Potter proclaimed to the world "that quarantines never arrested any disease except the smallpox:" and he insinuated, that the United States should set the example of doing away with all quarantine laws. He was so fully tinctured with the belief that quarantines were useless appendages to health enactments, as to assert, that he "anticipated the era when our government would make it a national concern; when a consular convention, at least with the nations commercially connected with us, will put a period to a system which is a reflection upon our philosophical character."*

Nor was this interesting, yet embarrassing question, entirely lost sight of by our American statesmen. The immortal Jefferson, in 1804, while in the executive chair, in a communication to Congress on the state of the Union, protested against the prevalence of a code of laws to prevent the introduction of yellow fever.

Notwithstanding the weight of these authorities, added to a host of others that could be named did time permit, I am not in the least shaken in my faith as to the importance of a judicious code of quarantine restrictions. In this view, I am happy to

* Potter on Contagion, p. 116.

have the concurrent testimony of our distinguished townsman and fellow-member, Dr. R. La Roche, whose admirable and learned work on Yellow Fever has won for him a world-wide renown. On p. 545, vol. ii., he says, alluding to the subject of quarantine: "I am not willing to be understood as ignoring altogether the utility of restrictive measures."

But, gentlemen, this deeply interesting topic presents a wider and still wider range of thought as I proceed, and as I have already exceeded the time usually allotted for an annual address, I shall be obliged to conclude.

The whole subject of Quarantine involves important interests. While the great commercial claims of our city demand protection against the rigid enforcement of an unnecessary and oppressive code of restrictive regulations, which impose a vexatious system of taxation upon the merchant and mariner, involving a loss to the city both of capital and industry, at the same time, it is of paramount importance that the community be protected against the introduction of pestilential and contagious diseases, through the channels of commerce. This can only be done by an efficient system of quarantine laws—laws which, sufficiently restrictive in their operation, when properly enforced, to guard against the admission of disease, will not infringe unnecessarily upon the interests and rights of the owners, underwriters, or crews of vessels, when unfortunately detained, either by delays, expenses, or exposure and destruction of property—laws which will in nowise impede an active commerce, whose interests thus jeopardized, have always been antagonistic to quarantine establishments.

APPENDIX.

The following are all the laws relating to Quarantine, passed in the 18th century by the Legislature of Pennsylvania :—

1700. The first law on record, passed by the Assembly of this commonwealth, for preventing the introduction of pestilential and infectious diseases being brought into the State, or port of Philadelphia from abroad, was an act passed 1700, entitled "*An Act to prevent sickly vessels coming into this Government.*"
1743. The next was passed February 3, 1743, and is entitled "*An Act for vesting Province Island, and the buildings thereon erected, in Trustees, for providing Hospitals for such passengers as shall be imported into this province, and to prevent the spreading of infectious distempers.*"
1750. Another law was enacted, January 27, 1750, entitled "*An Act for prohibiting the importation of German or other passengers in too great numbers in any one vessel.*"
1765. Then follows "*A Supplement (May 18, 1765) to an Act entitled An Act for prohibiting the importation of German or other passengers in too great numbers in any one vessel.*"
1774. The fifth was enacted January 22, 1774, and was entitled "*An Act to prevent infectious diseases being brought into this province.*"
1793. Nineteen years after this, April 11, 1793, there was a law passed empowering the Master Warden to act as Health Officer, and is entitled "*An Act to establish a Board of Wardens for the port of Philadelphia, and for other purposes therein mentioned.*"
1793. In the same year, September 5, 1793, there was also passed "*A Supplement to an Act, entitled An Act to prevent infectious diseases being brought into this province.*"

1794. On the 22d of April, the following year (1794), the first law establishing a Health Office was enacted, and is in the following words, to wit: "*An Act for establishing an Health Office, for otherwise securing the City and Port of Philadelphia from the introduction of pestilential and contagious diseases, and for regulating the importation of German and other passengers.*"